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LETTER DATED 20 FEBRUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 678 (1990), I have the honour to inform you of the actions which the French armed forces are continuing to undertake, within the framework of plans formulated together with the members of the coalition of countries cooperating with Kuwait, with a view to securing compliance with resolution 660 (1990) and all the subsequent resolutions of the Council.

The elements of the French ground forces in place - which include two motorized-infantry regiments, two armoured light-cavalry regiments, one tank regiment, one artillery regiment, one engineers regiment, and two combat-helicopter regiments, in other words, nearly 12,000 men - have continued their preparations in liaison with other forces.

Our naval units are continuing to help protect vessels of the allied navies. In addition, French vessels monitoring, within the framework of the Western European Union, the embargo in the Straits of Tiran, Bab al Mandab and Hormuz have identified more than 6,800 ships since the beginning of the conflict, and have inspected nearly 140.

Lastly, since 17 January, French combat aircraft have carried out more than 800 missions, participating in attacks in Kuwait and Iraq on Iraqi forces and their infrastructure. Also since that date, other French aircraft have conducted 950 airspace-control missions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter issued as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Pierre-Louis BLANC

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